

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joe Corso on 2/1/2012.

The application has been amended as follows:

A) In claim 44, in the fourth line of the claim, after the term "the" and before "of", please delete the term "type" and add "the resin absorption characteristics".

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claims are found to be allowable over the closest prior art Nobunao (*JP 2001-315287*) and Takashi et al. (*JP 05-016598*). Nobunao discloses a decorative panel that interacts with an ink composition but is silent to the pigment absorbing the resin. Examiner notes that in Nobunao, the interaction is between an extender and not the pigment itself. As such, the present claims are found to be novel and unobvious over Nobunao. Takashi discloses a molded article having a transfer layer comprising a radiation curing layer that is aligned with a printed pattern layer wherein the ink layer absorbs the ionizing radiation but is silent to the resin itself is absorbed by the ink pigment. As such, the claims are found to be novel and unobvious over Takashi.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PRASHANT J. KHATRI whose telephone number is (571)270-3470. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. (First Friday Off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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